



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

AUG 31 2004

Re: Alimta

Docket No. 04E-0307

The Honorable Jon Dudas  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Box Pat. Ext.  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Acting Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 5,344,932 filed by Eli Lilly and Company under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug product claimed by the patent is Alimta (pemetrexed disodium), which was assigned NDA No. 21-462.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that this product was subject to a regulatory review period before its commercial marketing or use, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(a)(4). Our records also indicate that it represents the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product, as defined under 35 U.S.C. § 156(f)(1), and interpreted by the courts in *Glaxo Operations UK Ltd. v. Quigg*, 706 F. Supp. 1224 (E.D. Va. 1989), *aff'd*, 894 F. 2d 392 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The NDA was approved on February 4, 2004, which makes the submission of the patent term extension application on March 19, 2004, timely within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(1).

Should you conclude that the subject patent is eligible for patent term extension, please advise us accordingly. As required by 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A) we will then determine the applicable regulatory review period, publish the determination in the *Federal Register*, and notify you of our determination.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad

Associate Director for Policy  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

04E-0307

cc: Elizabeth A. McGraw  
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